It was apparent to me that their hostility evoked no sympathy amongst their Trade Union colleagues.

I opened the proceedings by addressing them on the position of the War, and upon the general outline of my own Policy as Prime Minister, As there has been a good deal of discussion of a recriminatory character about the conditions under which organised Labour entered the Cabinet, it is only fair to the majority who gave their adhesion to the new Government that I should quote textually from the official record of the proceedings at that fateful interview. The following passage from my speech will illustrate the position which I then took, and to which I faithfully adhered.

My address to the Labour Party Executive

> " . . . The War for the moment is going badly ; the country and all the nations which hang upon the triumph of Great Britain are in great peril. The fall of Bucharest is not merely a question of one city passing into the hands of the enemy ; it means a good deal more than that; it means that for the moment, the blockade is broken, the work of the Fleet to that extent neutralised, and that we are face to face with the grimmest and most perilous struggle in which this country has ever been engaged. I felt that we were not

The War going badly

waging
this war in the way wars alone can be waged. I
hate war ; I abominate it. I sometimes think
* Am I dreaming ? Is it a nightmare ? It cannot
be fact.' But these are questions to ask and answer
before you go into a war ; once you are in it you
have to go grimly through it, otherwise the causes
which hang upon a successful issue will all perish.